HUNGRY HORSE VILLAGE, MAINTENANCE SHOP
(Hungry Horse Village, Structure 19)
(Hungry Horse Village, Spotted Bear District Warehouse)
Flathead National Forest
Approximately 1 mile south of Highway 2 East
and 1/4 mile east of Colorado Blvd.
Hungry Horse, vicinity
Flathead County
Montana

HABS No. MT-112-B

HABS
MT-112-B

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Intermountain Support Office - Denver
National Park Service
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HUNGRY HORSE VILLAGE, MAINTENANCE SHOP
(HUNGRY HORSE VILLAGE, STRUCTURE 19)
(HUNGRY HORSE VILLAGE, SPOTTED BEAR DISTRICT WAREHOUSE)

HABS No. MT-112-B

Location: Approximately one mile south of Hwy 2 and one-quarter mile east of Colorado Blvd. in Hungry Horse, Flathead National Forest, Flathead County, Montana.
Vicinity

Significance: The Spotted Bear District Warehouse/Camp Maintenance Shop is part of the warehouse complex associated with the construction period of the Hungry Horse Dam (1945–1953) and its government and contractors' camps, known collectively as Hungry Horse Village. Replete with paved roads, a sewage system, electricity, chlorinated hot and cold running water, and a school that served kindergarten through the eighth grade, Hungry Horse Village at its peak housed a combined workforce of nearly 2,000 workers and their families.

Description: Located roughly 28 feet south of the three-sided shed (HABS No. MT-112-A), the building recently referred to as the Spotted Bear District Warehouse is a two-story, rectangular timber-frame building with a concrete slab foundation and a gable roof with a segmental arch top. The building measures 36 feet by 48 feet, and is 16 feet high at the top of the wall. The exterior walls and roof are covered with corrugated galvanized steel panels. At the east and west gable ends, the roofing has been applied to extend a foot past the edge of the building, apparently to provide some protection for the large overhead garage doors centered in the walls beneath.

The east wall of the building contains a central garage door opening with an overhead metal door. On the south side of the garage door, a single window opening in the ground floor level contains two nine-light windows with metal sashes. To the north, a pedestrian entry is located adjacent to the garage door with another nine-light window beyond. The pedestrian entry contains a wooden door with a single panel below and four fixed lights above. In addition, there is a small, four-light window in the second story above the north corner of the garage door as well as a small ventilation hole beneath the gable end. Some of the windowpanes have been replaced, and some muntins are missing. All of the windows are covered on the exterior with diamond-patterned steel mesh.

Fenestration in the west wall of the warehouse is almost identical to that on the east side, with the same placement of the lower windows and entries (although the door's original windows have been covered with plywood). It does not, however, have the 4-pane window or rectangular vent that the east side possesses. The west wall appears to be the front of the building, as it is marked with a sign reading "Maintenance Shop," illuminated by a lamp above. Additionally, the west side of the building contains a bank of electrical insulators (at the top of the second story, north of the garage door) and what appears to be a telephone or telegraph box affixed to the north edge of the wall.

Fenestration on the north and south sides of the building is virtually identical. Originally, each appears to have contained six window openings. The openings at the edges of the walls contain a single, nine-light sash; between these, the remaining four openings contain two nine-light sashes. On the south side, a small opening has been cut into the

middle left window, which has since been covered with corrugated metal. As with the other windows on the building, all of these are covered with steel mesh and many have been broken, replaced, or covered with plywood.

The first floor of the warehouse comprises 1728 square feet of workspace. Work areas, an office, a restroom, and storage spaces surround a large open space with a concrete floor. A waist-high wood workbench with cabinets and open storage space underneath and electrical outlets easily accessible along the face stretches almost the entire length of the southern wall of the building. A similar workbench lines the north wall at its easternmost edge. A sign in this area reads "electrical shop" and a large electrical service box is located on the eastern wall at its northernmost edge. Moving east along the north wall away from the electrical shop is a restroom, an entry to the restroom lined with storage shelves, and a small office, which occupies the northeastern corner of the building.

The second floor of the building is arranged in a U shape around the south, west, and north walls and comprises 1344 square feet of workspace. The south and north sections are 12 feet wide, with the west section being 16 feet wide. The second floor rests on what appear to be lead pipes in the open space of the room and wood beams along the inside of the exterior walls. Unlike the second story's wood floors and the walls and ceilings of the building, which are painted, the beams underneath the westernmost portion of the floor are unpainted.

Many forms of lighting are available in the shop: rows of fluorescent light fixtures interspersed with incandescent bulbs line the ceiling on the south side of the building; the bank of windows on the north and south walls provide natural light, and large incandescent light fixtures covered with metal shades that direct light downward from the metal ceiling two stories above.

History: Documents from 1947 to 1951 describe the construction of a maintenance shop at the Hungry Horse government camp. On May 13, 1947, Steel Buildings, Inc., of Redlands, California, was awarded a contract to supply prefabricated steel for a fire station and shop. This unspecified shop building may well have been the maintenance shop documented in this HABS report, as in 1948, construction of "additional shop facilities" had been completed by "government forces"—a date that corroborates other documentation of the construction date of the maintenance building. In 1951, the Bureau reported that a 36' x 48' building "with metal roof and sides, interior walls and partitions" was being used as a "carpenter's, plumber's, electrician's, and maintenance shop." What is unclear from the 1951 report, however, is whether the other 36' x 48' building which it described as a "welding shop" that was "also used as a blacksmith and heavy duty repair shop" is one and the same with the previously mentioned maintenance shop.

Although conclusive evidence to answer this question is apparently not extant, much can be deduced from the exterior construction and remaining interior components of the building. This physical evidence and later maps indicate that the building was most likely what was called the maintenance shop, but that it also could have served as the heavy duty shop. The tall garage doors on either end of the shop, cavernous construction, and "Maintenance Shop" sign seem to show that the structure was used for vehicle repair. The center of the room is open, and of a sufficient size to contain two truck-sized

vehicles. The existence of the "electrical shop" sign and the large electrical box indicate the use of this space in the shop. A 1958 report on the construction of the dam apparently describes the buildings in the larger warehouse complex, noting the existence of a "heavy duty shop," in relationship to a warehouse, carpenter shop, and paint shop. According to more recent site drawings, the paint shop (Building 20, which has been demolished) was located immediately south of what is known as the "maintenance shop" (Building 19).

In 2000, the Forest Service was using the building as a warehouse and storage facility. Likely, such had been the case ever since the Forest Service reacquired the property from the Bureau of Reclamation in 1967.

Sources:

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